

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-3 have been amended by way of this reply. Claims 1-3 have been amended to correct idiomatic language, correct lack of antecedent basis, conform the claims to U.S. format, and to improve the overall clarity of the claims. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 were objected to for informalities. Claim 1 was objected to for the lack of line indentation separating the elements and clarity. Claim 1 has been amended to correct the indentation issues. Also, in order to clarify that only the male part is claimed, the “configured to” language has been added to claim 1. Claim 2 was objected to for clarity and awkward wording. Claim 2 has been amended to improve clarity and to revise awkward wording. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.



ANNOTATED VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

~~Coupling Member for Use in a System with Flowing Fluid Comprising with Integral Locking Tongues Tonques for Engaging Wing .e.g. an Annular Groove~~

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a coupling part for use in a system for flowing fluid, comprising a male part to be sealingly mounted and retained in an adapted female part on another coupling part, the male and female parts being provided with at least one sealing element.

Background Art

[0002] In known solutions for locking systems for male and female parts, the locking element often comprises a separate ring. The ring may be placed on either the male or the female part, while the other part comprises a locking groove. The ring is compressed or expanded when the male part is inserted into the female part, before it slips into place in the locking groove.

[0003] E.g. in pneumatic brake pipe arrangements in large vehicles, coupling parts with nipples for the pipes are used, the coupling parts being provided with male parts for connecting these to openings in female parts on another coupling part in a sealing manner. The nipples may have external circumferential grooves, onto which the pipes are pressed and retained in a sealing manner. Opposite of the nipples the coupling parts may have a male part with sealing elements and locking rings which are to retain the coupling parts in female parts having an internal groove for a locking ring. A common type of locking ring is a split ring, possibly with a chamfered external edge in order to facilitate insertion into the female part. As sealing elements are commonly used O-rings, which

Defective Oath/Declaration

The Examiner asserted that the Oath/Declaration is defective because of a misspelling in the title. Applicant notes that the misspelling to which the Examiner is referring is included in the originally filed application. Thus, the title, including both the typographical errors and the PCT application number, is consistent with and uniquely identifies the application for which the inventors are executing their Oath/Declaration. Accordingly, a corrected Oath/Declaration is not necessary as the originally filed Oath/Declaration is in compliance with 37 CFR §1.63.

Applicant further notes that the title has been amended to correct the spelling error by way of this reply. Thus, the issue of the typographical error existing in the application is now moot.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicated that the reference DE-4003461 in the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 14, 2005 was not considered, because it did not include a translation or concise statement of relevance. Applicant files herewith an Information Disclosure Statement of the U.S. Patent which corresponds to DE-4003461, U.S. Patent No. 5,112,084. Consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The abstract was objected to for including misspellings and incorrect grammar. The abstract has been amended in view of this objection.

The title was objected for being too long. The title has been amended in view of this objection.

The Examiner indicated that the amendments to the specification in the preliminary amendment filed November 14, 2005, were not entered for not complying with 37 CFR 1.121. Thus, the specification was objected to for not including section headings. The specification has been amended by way of this reply to include section headings, and to conform the specification to U.S. format.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 of the present application was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,735,235 ("Anderson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires, in part, "the integral male part comprises a stepping and integral locking tongues configured to engage with at least one annular groove of the female part."

The coupling part of the claimed invention comprises an integral male part having integral *locking* tongues, wherein the locking tongues must be *configured to engage with at least one annular groove of the female part*. The claimed invention is advantageous, for example, because the production and assembly of separate locking rings are eliminated, providing a less complex and cheaper coupling member. Further, the claimed invention is advantageous, for example, because the locking tongues are able to withstand pressure loads in the axial direction.

Anderson discloses an air duct system having a polymeric tube 12 having peripheral tabs 22 on an outer end portion. Anderson discloses that some of the tabs can be bent

over to secure the tube 12 to the panel 56. The Examiner equates the bendable tabs 22 to the locking tongues of the claimed invention.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the bendable tabs 22 of Anderson are not *configured to engage with at least one annular groove of the female part*, because there is nothing on the bendable tabs 22 that could engage with an annular groove. Instead, the tabs are simply bent over the panel 56. Further, the tabs cannot be considered *locking* tongues, because the tabs are simply bent over the panel 56, and axial forces could easily unbend the tabs. Thus, the tabs 22 are never locked into position. In fact, none of the tabs ever go to a locking position, and must be manually bent over the panel 56.

In view of the above, claim 1 is patentable over Anderson, for at least the above reasons. Claims 2 and 3 are dependent from claim 1. Thus, claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Anderson, at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, under Order No. 17239/003001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments:

- Substitute Specification (5 pages)
- Annotated version of specification (5 pages)